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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS AND SUBJECT

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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD INTERVIEWED BY FINNISH NEWSMAN

SUMMARY: TRANSCRIPT OF APRIL 7 INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT DAOUD BY FINNISH NEWSMAN JOUKO HAVA MADE PUBLIC IN KABUL APRIL 10. MOST TERRITORY COVERED IS FAMILIAR GROUND. MAJOR NEWS WAS PRESIDENT DAOUD'S DEFINITE STATEMENT THAT NEW CONSTITUTION IS PRESENTLY BEING DRAFTED. OTHER TOPICS INCLUDE AFGHAN ECONOMIC PLANNING, EDUCATIONAL AND LAND REFORM, SOVIET/AFGHAN RELATIONS, AND DAOUD ATTITUDE TOWARD SOCIALISM. THOUGH DAOUD'S STATEMENTS ON PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS REPRESENT NO RETREAT FROM PREVIOUS GOA PRONOUNCEMENTS, GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS TENOR OF COMMENTS TEMPERATE.

2. TRANSCRIPT OF APRIL 7 INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT DAOUD BY
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FINNISH CORRSPONDENT JOUKO HAVA (PUBLISHING AGENCY

"YHTNEET KUVALEHDET", NEWS MAGAZINE "SUOMEN KUVATEHPPI") WAS BROADCAST KABUL RADIO AND PUBLISHED IN "ANIS" (IN DARI) APRIL 10, AND PUBLISHED IN "KABUL TIMES" (IN ENGLISH), "HEWAD" (IN PUSHTU) AND "JOMHURIYAT" (IN DARI) APRIL 12. HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW SUMMARIZED BELOW.

3. CONSTITUTION, EDUCATIONAL REFORM, LAND REFORM. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO HOW FAR DESIRE FOR "REAL DEMOCRACY" HAS BEEN REALIZED SINCE JULY 1973 COUP, PRESIDENT DAOUD ILLUSTRATED ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE BASIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE BY REFERRING TO PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND BY STATING THAT FRAMEWORKS FOR LAND REFORM LAW AND CONSTITUTION HAVE BEEN PREPARED. NO DATE WAS GIVEN FOR PUBLISHING OF LAND REFORM LAW. IN MOST DEFINITE STATEMENT TO DATE, DAOUD SAID THAT DRAFTING COMMISSION IS -PRESENTLY WORKING ON CONSTITUTION, THAT NEXT STAGE WILL BE ESTABLISHMENT OF LARGER BODY TO ASSESS DRAFT, LEADING TO CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PRODUCT BY "LOYA JIRGA". INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT REVELATION CONSTITUTION IS BEING DRAFTED RECEIVED DIFFERENT TREATMENT IN HEADLINES FOR INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS: "KABUL TIMES" AND "ANIS" HEADLINES GIVE IT PROMINENCE WHILE HEADLINES FROM "JOMHURIYAT" AND "HEWAD" TRANSLATE AS "FUNDAMENTAL AIM OF OUR REVOLUTION IS TO SECURE PROSPERITY FOR NATION AND TO SERVE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE."

4. ECONOMY. PRESIDENT DAOUD SAID LITTLE NEW IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT WAS THAT GOA APPARENTLY IS DRAFTING A NEW "BASIC ECONOMIC PLAN" QUITE SEPARATE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED BUT NEVER FORMALLY ADOPTED FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM SOVIET ADVISORS. WHILE IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE FOURTH PLAN WAS NOT BEING ADOPTED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT, IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THAT ITS GENERAL DETAILS WERE VALID, AND THAT PLAN EVENTUALLY WOULD BE ADOPTED, SUBJECT TO SOME EDITING. DAOUD, IN THIS INTERVIEW, STATES THAT THE GOA HAS INSTEAD, "STARTED PREPARATION OF THE FIRST PLAN OF THE REPUBLIC". JUDGING FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOA, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE BASIC ECONOMIC PLAN WILL REMAIN UNPUBLISHED AND PROBABLY UNDEFINED FOR SOME TIME.

5. SOVIET/AFGHAN RELATIONS. CORRESPONDENT POSED NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS, SOME OF THEM RATHER PUZZLING, CONCERNING SOVIET/AFGHAN RELATIONS. AFTER BLITHELY STATING THAT USSR ARMS AND TRAINS BOTH AFGHAN MILITARY AND "INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN PAKISTAN", INTERVIEWER ASKED PRESIDENT DAOUD TO "ASSESS SOVIET INTERESTS IN "THESE AREAS". AFTER AGREEING THAT SOVIETS DO SUPPLY ARMS TO AFGHAN MILITARY AND THAT OFFICERS WERE TRAINED THERE AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. DAOUD EXPRESSED LACK OF COMPREHENSION OF CONNECTION BETWEEN SUBJECT AND "FREEDOM

STRUGGLES OF PUSHTUNS AND BALUCHIS", THEN LAUNCHED INTO SET
PIECE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. ANOTHER SOMEWHAT ODD QUESTION WAS
WHAT WOULD RESULT BE OF COMPLETE STOPPAGE OF SOVIET ECONOMIC
AID TO AFGHANISTAN. DAOUD RESPONDED THAT RATE OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WOULD SLOW, BUT PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE DEPENDENT
ON AFGHAN RESOURCES. HE ADDED THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO
CONSIDER SUCH A CESSATION A POSSIBILITY.

6. SOCIALISM.

IN REPLY TO QUERY WHETHER AFGHANISTAN'S GOOD
RELATIONS WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INDICATED
THAT AFGHANISTAN IS SEEKING SOCIALIST PATH, DAOUD GAVE NON-
COMMITTED STATEMENT WITH ESCAPE CLAUSES TAILORED SO AS NOT
TO OFFEND EITHER SOVIET AID BENEFACTORS OR AFGHAN CONSERV-
ATIVE RELIGIOUS SENSIBILITIES. PRESSED FURTHER HE ALLOWED THAT
"THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN (SOCIALISM) THAT ARE GOOD
AND WHICH CAN BE UTILIZED". LATER IN THE INTERVIEW DAOUD
EMPHASIZED THAT AFGHANISLAN IS AND WILL REMAIN AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY.

7. PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS. PAK/AFGHAN AFFAIRS WERE RAISED IN
NUMBER OF CONTEXTS. WHILE PRESIDENT DAOUD'S STATEMENTS
FELL WITHIN THE RANGE OF FAMILIAR GOA ASSERTIONS, TENOR OF
HIS REMARKS, GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN
WERE TEMPERATE. AT ONE POINT HE STATED THAT PUSHTUN/BALUCHI
PROBLEM "NEITHER RELATES TO MR. BHUTTO NOR TO PAKISTAN", BUT IS
REMNANT OF COLONIAL ERA. WHILE NOT RETREATING, PRESIDENT
DAOUD SEEMS TO HAVE FOREGONE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY
INTERVIEW TO BEAT THE DRUM AND FURTHER EXACERBATE RELATIONS
WITH ISLAMABAD.

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